

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

16 JULY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a. Ambassador Nolting reports:
"Our patient is still on the critical list, but improving."

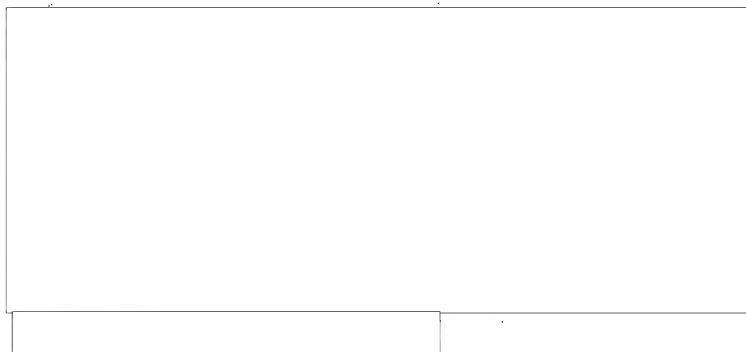
b. He finds that coup rumors and evidence of anti-Diem plots abound, but feels that each passing day increases slightly the chances of surmounting the crisis. He believes the Buddhist leaders, who could still take the initiative to bring down the government, are reluctant to do so.

c. Yesterday, however, the head of the principal Buddhist organization issued a statement charging Diem with bad faith and threatening a new wave of hunger strikes, demonstrations and suicides. Some 150 monks are said to have volunteered to commit public suicide by one means or another.

d. Today a group of some 150 Buddhists demonstrated in front of Nolting's residence, giving rise to fears that a suicide was to be carried out there. The crowd, however, dispersed several hours later without incident.

2. Cuba

a. More cargo was off-loaded in Cuban ports during June than in any one month since last October. Deliveries totaled about three-quarters of a million tons, roughly two-thirds of which arrived in tankers.



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NOTES

- A. East Africa Ambassador Korry in Addis Ababa is reasonably certain that a secret mutual defense pact has been signed by Ethiopia and Kenya. This would be directed at Somalia, which has been trying to put teeth into its claims to portions of both countries.

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- D. Communist China This year's early grain harvest, by all signs, will not be up to the level of the poor early crop last year. Rations will continue very tight until at least September, when the late crop begins to come in. It is too early yet for a reading on the late crop.

(Cont'd)

- E. Malaysia Sukarno, who apparently saw a threat of economic warfare in a recent Rahman remark concerning the utility to Indonesia of ties with the proposed Malaysian states, could be trying his hand at the same game. His oil negotiator has suggested to representatives of the three Western oil companies that the oil question is not entirely separate from the Malaysian issue.
- F. South Korea Ambassador Berger takes a very gloomy view of the course of events. He sees Chairman Pak's continued willingness to back the unsavory Kim Chong-pil over the moderates as leading to another period of instability, increased repression and irresponsible economic policies. "If events unfold as now appears likely", he observes, "we anticipate that we will soon find ourselves unable to support the junta."
- G. Hungary A great deal of speculation that there may be a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary has been generated by Kadar's trip to Moscow
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